WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of feeding a plurality of electric-component tapes each of which includes a carrier tape and holds a plurality of electric components in a lengthwise direction of the carrier tape, supplying, from said each electric-component tape, the electric components, one by one, to an electric-component mounting system, and operating the electric-component mounting system to sequentially mount the electric components at respective positions on a print wired board, thereby assembling an electric circuit on the print-wired board, the method comprising the steps of:

feeding said plurality of electric-component tapes including two electric component tapes one of which holds a first sort of electric components and the other of which holds a second sort of electric components different from the first sort of electric components, supplying, from each of said two electric component tapes, the electric components of a corresponding one of the first and second sorts, one by one, to the electric-component mounting system,

connecting, to a terminal end portion of a first one of said plurality of electric-component tapes that currently supplies the electric components to the electric-component mounting system, an initial end portion of a second one of said plurality of electric-component tapes that holds the electric components of a same sort as the electric components held by the first electric component tape,

detecting a connection portion where the terminal end portion of the first electric-component tape and the initial end portion of the second electric component tape are connected to each other, and

obtaining a remaining amount of the electric components which currently remain on the second electric-component tape, based on the number of the electric-components supplied from the second tape after the detection of the connection

portion and an initial number of the electric components which are initially present on the second tape connected to the first tape.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

inputting, at a timing around a timing at which the first and second electric-component tapes are connected to each other, identification information identifying the second tape, into the electric-component mounting system, and

comparing, in response to the detection of the connection portion, the input identification information, with reference identification information pre-stored in the electric-component mounting system, and when the input identification information is not identical with the reference identification information, stopping the operation of the electric-component mounting system.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of inputting the identification information comprises reading in, with a bar-code reader, a bar code as the identification information identifying the second electric-component tape.

4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of informing, when the obtained remaining amount is not more than a reference amount, an operator of a fact that the obtained remaining amount is not more than the reference amount.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of detecting the connection portion comprises detecting a connection member which connects the terminal end portion of the first electric-component tape and the initial end portion of the second electric-component tape to each other.